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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. **(currently amended)** An ink tank comprising:
 - an ink containing portion for containing ink;
 - an ink lead-out portion for leading out ink in said ink containing portion to the outside; and
 - an electrode inlet portion for inletting an electrode into said ink containing portion, said electrode inlet portion being different from said ink lead-out portion, wherein said ink lead-out portion and said electrode inlet portion are continuously connected through a conductive member.
2. **(original)** An ink tank according to claim 1, wherein said conductive member is a film having conductive substance coated therefor.
3. **(original)** An ink tank according to claim 2, wherein said ink lead-out portion and said electrode inlet portion are substantially sealed by said film.

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4. (original) An ink tank according to claim 2, wherein for said ink lead-out portion and said electrode inlet portion, an ink absorbing member are arranged to be in contact with said film but not directly in contact with ink in said ink containing portion.
5. (original) An ink jet printer capable of mounting the ink tank according to claim 1 comprising:
 - a conductive ink lead-out member to be inserted into said ink lead-out portion;
 - an electrode to be inserted into said electrode inlet portion; and
 - a circuit portion for applying voltage between said ink lead-out member and said electrode and for measuring an electric current in a route,wherein the electric current measured by said circuit portion changes in accordance with the presence and absence of ink in said ink tank, and the attachment and detachment of ink tank to and from said ink jet printer.
6. (original) An ink jet printer according to claim 5, wherein said ink lead-out member is a hollow needle-type metallic member.